Re-Categorisation of Customs Tariff

1597. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re-categorised the Customs Tariff;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) from when it will be given effect; and

(d) how it will benefit the customs collection targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1985 (8 of 1986) to bring the Customs Tariff in conformity with the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonised System) came into force on the 28th February 1986. The Harmonised System is an internationally accepted nomenclature for goods in international trade.

(d) In the Harmonised System, the structure is far more rationalised compared to the Customs Cooperation Council Nomenclature (CCCN), on which the earlier Customs Tariff was based, and has taken into account the latest changes in technology and pattern of international trade making it uptodate. It is, therefore, expected to minimise classification disputes under the Customs Tariff and thereby facilitate revenue collections.

Seminar on Consumer Protection

1598. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry had recently organised a two-day Seminar in Delhi on Consumer Protection; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether the participants welcomed the draft model law in this regard and made certain suggestions for its improvement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all the voluntary organisations present at the Seminar pleaded for inclusion of not only goods but also services including those of the public sector, under the proposed model law; and

(d) if so, what is Government's stand thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. An all India Seminar on Consumer Protection was organised by the Department of Civil Supplies in New Delhi on 20, 21 January, 1986 to discuss the following items:

(i) Draft Model Law on Consumer Protection, to be adopted by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

(ii) Amendments to Consumer Protection Laws, *e.g.* PFA Act, Standards of Weights and Measures Act, etc.

(iii) Giving limited powers to voluntary organisations.

(iv) People's participation in Consumers Protection Movement, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.

(v) Specific administrative, legal, scientific and technical arrangements for the development and monitoring of consumer movement in the country.

(vi) Unit Pricing System.

(vii) Setting up of All India Confederation of Voluntary Consumer Organisations.

The Seminar was attended by the representatives of the Central Ministries/Departments concerned with the various consumer protection laws, State Governments/Union Territories and voluntary consumer organisations.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It may not be possible to include the services of the public sector under the proposed model law as this may lead to multipilicity of authority, since the Departments concerned with the public utility services aready have appropriate machinery for redressal of public grievances.

Export of Tea to the USSR

1599. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the quantity of tea exported to the USSR during the year 1985 and what is its percentage as compared to the total tea exports during the current year;

(b) whether payment was made to that country in foreign exchange or in rupee;

(c) whether it is a fact that the tea re-exported to the USSR is re-exported by that country to West European markets after repacking; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have explored the possibility of exporting Indian tea direct to the countries where it is exported by the USSR after re-packing?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) As against total exports estimated around 222.4 mkgs. shipment licences for tea exports to USSR during 1985 were for 103.95 mkgs.

(b) Under the Trade Agreement with USSR payments for all commercial transaction whether it is tea exports to USSR or oil imports from USSR or anyother items traded, require to be made in non-convertible Indian rupees.

(c) Tea Board has no such information. However, such re-exports are unlikely as the unit value of tea exports from USSR is at the lower end of the price range whereas teas exported by India to USSR are among the most expensive.

(d) Does not arise.

Export Processing Zone at Tuticorin

1600. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set an Export Processing Zone at Tuticorin Port during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the quantum of proposed investment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pending cases against Parle Group of Companies and M/s Bisleri (India) Private Limited

1601. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases with details, against Parle Group of Companies and M|s. Bisleri (India) Private Limited for various offences which are at present pending in various courts as well as with the investigating agencies;

(b) since when these cases are pending; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to dispose of these cases speedily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The information to the extent possible is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.